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Discovery Girls

DISCOVERY



A Magazine for Girls Ages 8 & Up

PRESSURED
to be *perfect*

gifts &
fashion

Cheyenne

Am I
Normal?

'Tis the Season!

Plus
embarrassing
moments,
quizzes,
& more!

\$4.50 U.S. / \$5.50 Canada



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December/January 2007

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

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Twinkle Twinkle Hello Kitty,
bring me something small and pretty.



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A MAGAZINE created by girls, for girls



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Gifts of fashion. Gifts of style.



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Catherine's Page



Check out these pictures from our Washington photo shoot! They were taken at Pike Place Market in Seattle, where we came across a guy with a guitar singing "Brown Eyed Girl." At first our Discovery Girls decided to have a little fun and jumped in as his backup singers, but before the poor guy knew what hit him, our girls had taken over the guitar and he was singing backup for them! No one would accuse our Discovery Girls of being shy!

I hope you'll take some time to fill out our survey (pages 55-56). It's really important to us, and your answers will help make the magazine more exciting. If you send your survey in by January 31, you'll have a chance to win an iPod Nano or a DG tee. We'll even share the results with you in upcoming issues. So if you want to know what other girls fear most...or how much allowance they get...or how many have their own cell phones...get out your pencil and start writing now!

always,
Catherine

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by Girls, for Girls...

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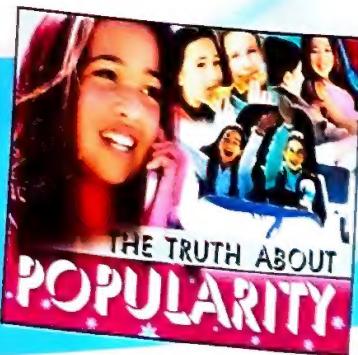
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Award Wi

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The "Truth" Hurts

I thought the article about popularity in your August/September issue would be about how to deal with mean, popular people. But the article made it sound like all popular people are just hated because of their status, not for the way they treat others. You really only got one side of the story, not the side about the popular people being mean and backstabbing. The popular kids at my school are basically life-ruiners. I just thought you should know how much it really hurt my feelings!
-DM, age 13, Mich.

Just Like Us!

Thank you for "The Truth About Popularity." I used to look down on popular kids and think that they were snobs. But the article "Popular girls are just regular people with feelings, and they get hurt, just like we do!"
-Eve, age 12, Minn.

Not the Enemy!

Yes, I understand that popular kids have their problems, but "The Truth About Popularity" didn't mention a lot of other things. For instance, you made it seem like everything the popular kids deal with is the *unpopular* kids' faults, like when the unpopular kids spread rumors and gossip about the popular kids. But I've heard popular kids make fun of my friends and me! You made unpopular kids sound like the enemy, and it's just not right!
-Abby, age 12, N.Y.

We got tons of mail about August/September's "The Truth About Popularity," which wasn't exactly... "popular." Everyone had something to say, so check out these letters—and don't forget to send yours in, too!

The Terrific "Truth"

Thank you so much for "The Truth About Popularity"! I'm considered popular, and I am so glad that readers learned that not all popular girls are mean or snobby. Popularity has gotten that reputation from movies and TV. Popular girls are just like everyone else and they don't like to be hurt. Please remember that, everybody! Thanks again, DG!

-Briana, age 11, Md.

Not at My School!

I've noticed that there's a lot in your magazine about popularity, wannabes, queen bees, dorks, etc. I find those articles very stereotyped. At my school, we don't have names for each little group, and to me, each group is pretty much equal in popularity and weirdness. It might be different everywhere, but I just wanted to tell you how it is at my school.

-Clara, age 12, Canada

Encouraging Words

I couldn't believe how horribly Kristie's stepmother and father treated her in "Words Can Crush You" (August/September)! Kristie, your dad still does loves you, and it was wrong for your stepmom to put him in that situation. You really showed how much you love your dad and that you are truly sincere about improving your relationship! You are an amazing daughter that anyone would love to have!



-Kayla, age 11, Va.

Send your letters to:

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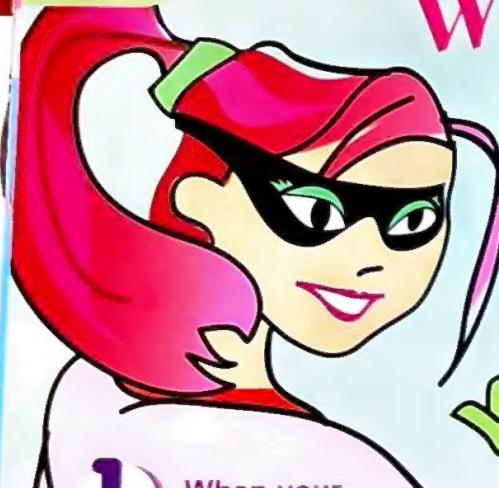
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What's Your Secret Talent?

By Lisa Beebe



1 When your BFF mentions that she has a crush on someone, you say:

- "Tell me all about it!"
- "So is it Dylan or Cole?"
- "I knew it! I can tell by the way you're acting."
- "Ooh, won't it be awesome if he likes you back?"

2 You ask a friend how she's doing, and she says, "I'm okay...I guess." How do you react?

- Ask more questions to find out if something's wrong.
- Tell her about something funny that happened to you—she sounds bored.
- Ask her if she's *really* okay, because she seems kind of down.
- Try to think of something for her to be happy about, so she feels great instead of just okay.

3 Your cousin is trying to figure out who she should invite to her birthday party. When she asks for your advice, you say:

- "Well, what kind of party is it? And how big do you want it to be?"
- "I know who you should invite...me!"
- "If you're having a hard time making a list, I'd be happy to help."
- "Well, it's your birthday, so let's make a list of people you like to be around!"

YOU COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE EVERY DAY, BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO GOOD AT IT? TAKE THIS QUIZ TO DISCOVER THE TALENT YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW YOU HAVE!

4 A friend has a crazy dream and calls to tell you about it—in detail. You say:

- "Uh-huh" and "okay" a few times, and ask a question about it when she's finished.
- "Dreams are so strange. It's like each of us has a private TV channel in our brain."
- "So, what do you think it means? Because I have a few ideas..."
- "I love it when I remember my dreams. You're so lucky."

5 You're trying to decide on a movie to see with your mom. When she suggests one you've never heard of, you:

- Have her tell you a little more about it, even if you'll probably agree anyway.
- Say, "Did you make that one up? I've never heard of it."
- Try to figure out how excited she is about that one before you suggest something else.
- Say, "I've never heard of it, but I know you have good taste in movies. So let's go!"

YOUR SECRET TALENT IS...

Mostly A's Super Listening

You love hearing about other people's thoughts and experiences. When you have conversations, you ask a lot of questions to be sure you get the whole story. People like talking to you, because you pay attention to everything they say!

Mostly B's

Constant Comedy Creation
When you're having a conversation, you see things from a unique perspective, so your unexpected comments tend to make people laugh. You always know how to lighten the mood when things are getting too serious, and that makes you fun to be around.

Mostly C's

See-Through Vision

When you talk to people, you're very sensitive to their emotions. They don't have to explain how they're feeling, because you can just *tell*. The people in your life feel a close bond with you, because you always seem to understand what they're going through.

Mostly D's

Ultra-Optimism

You can find a bright side to almost anything. When you see people getting discouraged, you consider it a personal challenge to perk them up—and it usually works. Your enthusiastic attitude brings energy and excitement to every conversation you have!



Gifts that make the world sound right.



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How can I get my big sister to let me hang out with her friends?

 Be extra nice to your sister, but you should still be yourself! If you have to change who you are to hang out with her and her friends, it's not worth it! And definitely don't act annoying if she still says no. She may change her mind someday, and you don't want to get into trouble with your parents now!

-MOLLY, AGE 9, N.Y.

 Why don't you create so much fun of your own that *they*'ll want to join you?! Whip up some chocolate chip cookies, or make jewelry or a cool craft. Or pop in a new DVD or crank up the karaoke. They'll come running for sure!

-AUBREY, AGE 11, WASH.

 If you already asked your sister a million times and she's always said no, give her a break. Put yourself in her place: Would you want your little sister hanging out with you? Instead, invite a friend of your own over, read a book, or do something to keep yourself busy. It will make you and your sister happy!

-COURTNEY, AGE 10, VA

 Just be yourself! If they can't accept you for who you are, then are they really worth hanging out with? Sure, it's great to look up to your older sister and her friends, but don't try to be them. They'll either accept you or they won't. If they don't, you need to move on!

-RACHEL, AGE 10, KY.

 Try working your request into some other conversation. Instead of begging to hang out with them, say, "My friend saw *Pirates of the Caribbean* and said it was awesome. Maybe we could see it sometime?" If that doesn't work, try it again later in a different situation

-MELISSA, AGE 10, N.J.

Coming up in Matters of the Heart:
Should I tell my crush I like him?

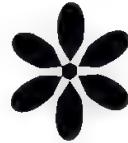
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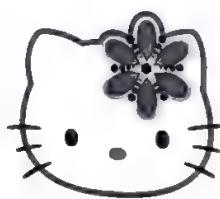




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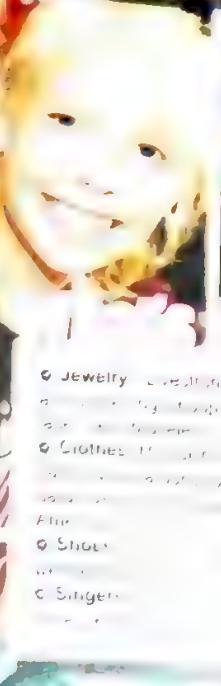


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Meet the Discovery Girls **WASHI**



- Jewelry: bracelets, fake diamond rings, hoop earrings, long beaded necklaces
- Clothes: skirt with leggings, gauchos, jumpsuit, turtleneck, Face jackets, Caps, skirt, skirt with belt, skirt with belt and blouse or skirt with belt and blouse and blouse
- Shoes: platform boots, pointed toe boots, pointed toe pumps
- Singer: A.J. McLean

- **Movie stars:** Ashley Tisdale, Dylan and Ciara Sprouse, Reese Witherspoon, Amanda Bynes, Orlando Bloom
- **Sports:** Snowboarding, skiing, lacrosse, basketball, soccer, track, dance
- **Accessories:** Digital cameras, iPods, cult chains, tote bags, JanSport backpacks, ribbed belts
- **Sayings/words:** "JK" (for "just kidding"), "go, girlfriend!" "Tightness," "Oh, dis!" "Oh, s!" Way megal!

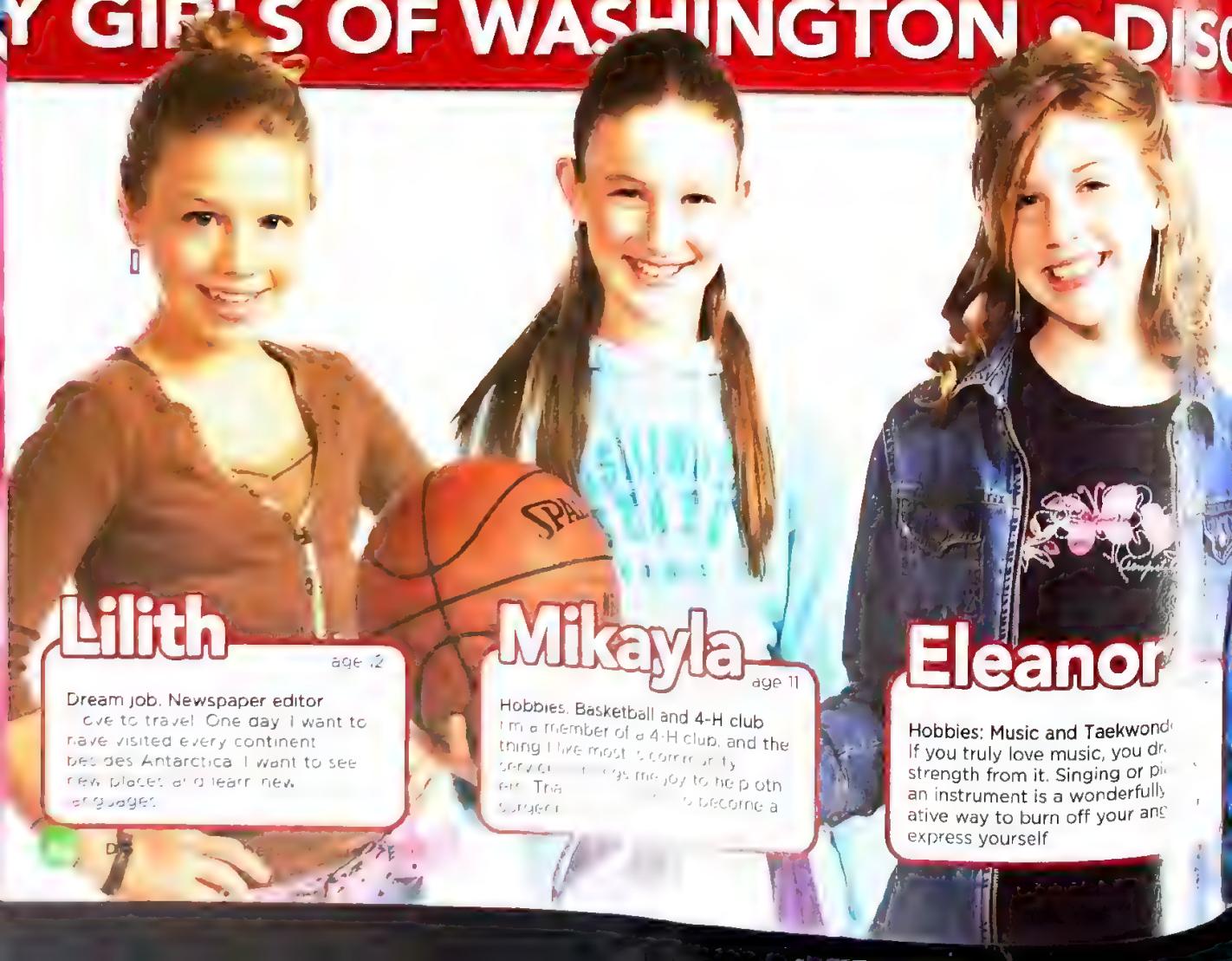


Outdoor photography by Nicole Ryan.
Studio photography by Richard Brown.
Makeup by Mimi Pettibone. Hair by Meghan Bailey, Penelope Comfort, Rachel Hile, and Elena Rivas-Swift of Chula Vista Academy.

D.G. December/January 2007



Y GIRLS OF WASHINGTON • DISC





Elle

age 11

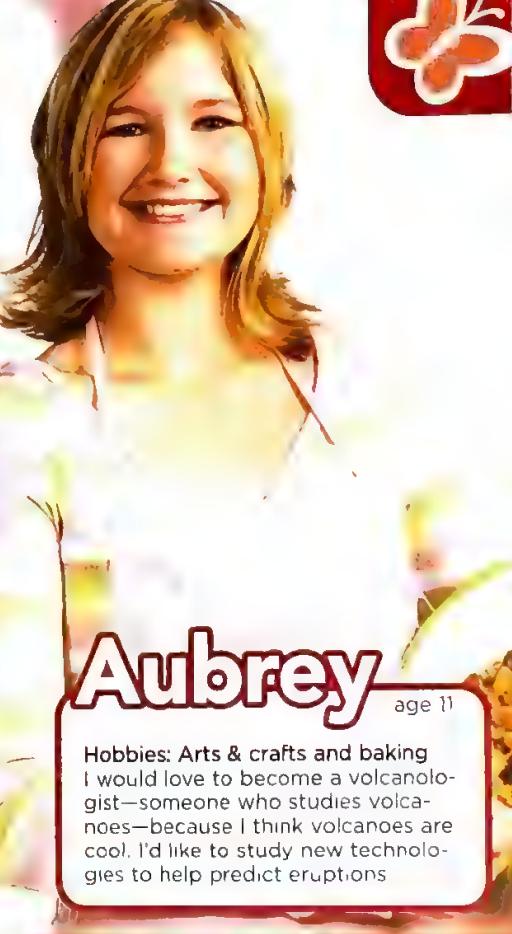
Dream job: Fashion designer
I love showing my horse at horse shows. I think showing horses is different from other sports because it's not just about you—it's about you and your horse working together.



Chloe

age 11

Hobbies: Acting and singing
My biggest dream is to be an actress. I love being on stage! Being able to show people what I love to do is such an overwhelming and exciting feeling!



Aubrey

age 11

Hobbies: Arts & crafts and baking
I would love to become a volcanologist—someone who studies volcanoes—because I think volcanoes are cool. I'd like to study new technologies to help predict eruptions.

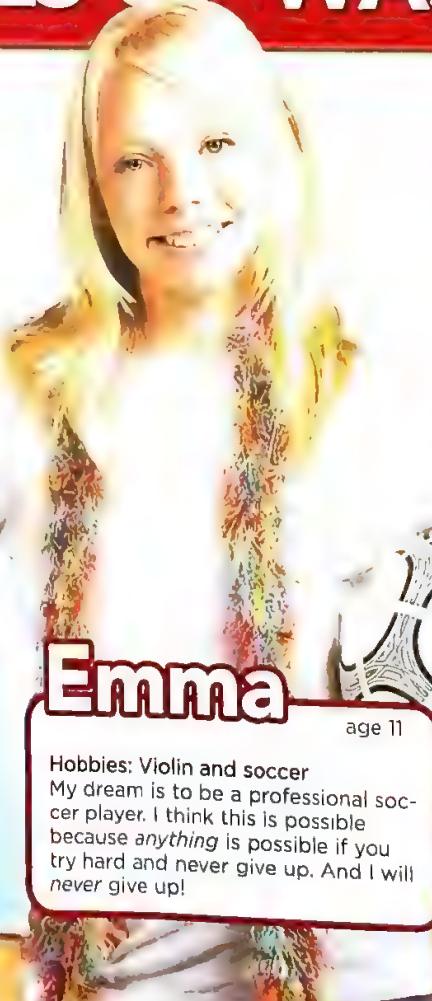
EVERY GIRLS OF WASHINGTON



Karissa

age 11

Dream job: Fashion designer and mom
As much as I love to act and sing, I love my family and friends even more! I love to sing because it makes me happy, and hopefully my singing can make others happy as well.



Emma

age 11

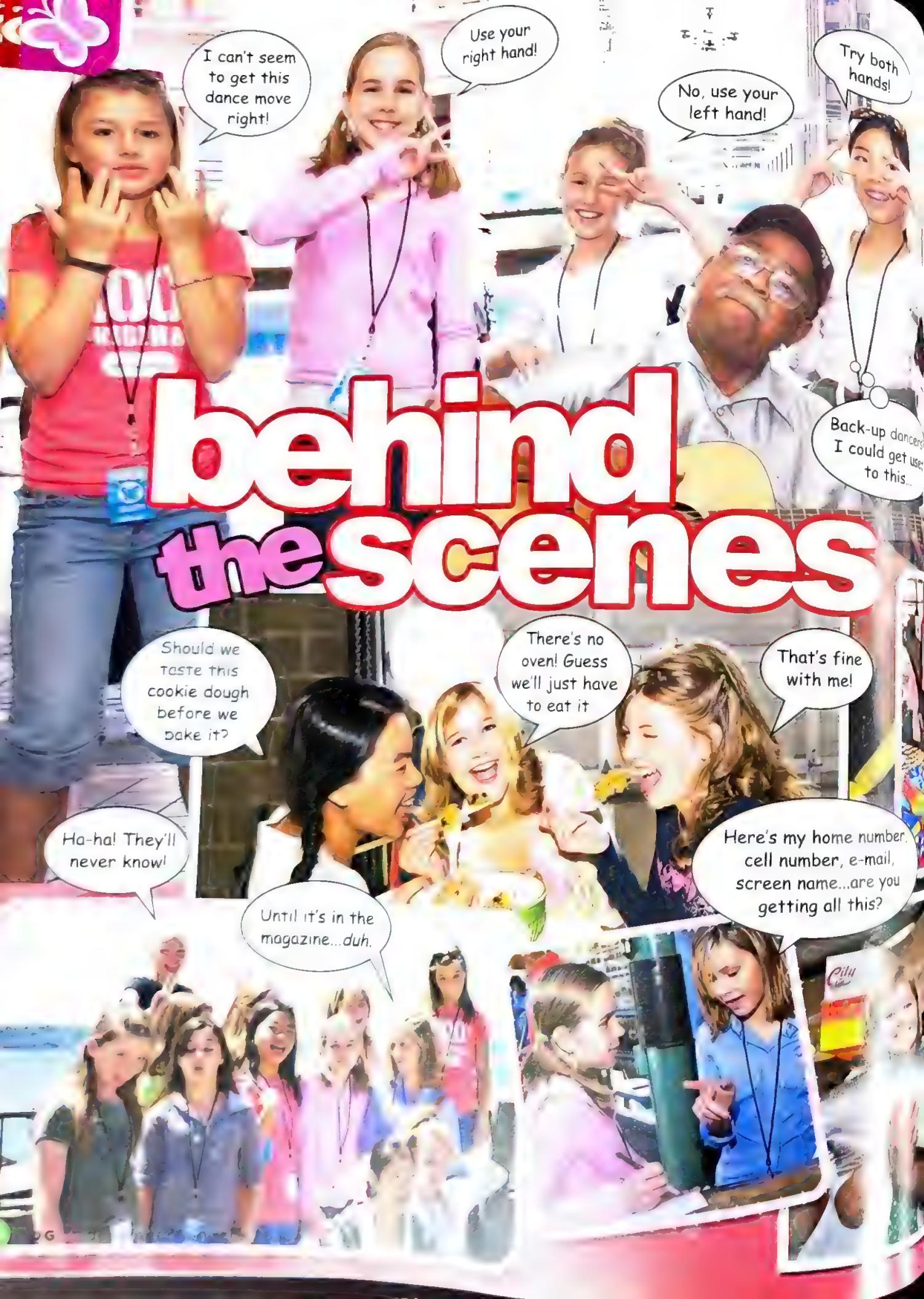
Hobbies: Violin and soccer
My dream is to be a professional soccer player. I think this is possible because *anything* is possible if you try hard and never give up. And I will never give up!



Haley

age 12

Dream job: Teacher or chef
I play classical music on the guitar and flute. Music is a big part of my life—it makes me feel happy and relaxed. If I go without practicing for a week, I really miss making music!



behind the scenes

I can't seem
to get this
dance move
right!

Use your
right hand!

No, use your
left hand!

Try both
hands!

Back-up dancers
I could get used
to this...

Should we
taste this
cookie dough
before we
bake it?

There's no
oven! Guess
we'll just have
to eat it

That's fine
with me!

Ha-ha! They'll
never know!

Until it's in the
magazine...duh.

Here's my home number,
cell number, e-mail,
screen name...are you
getting all this?



ask ali



dear Ali,

I have a friend who has a boyfriend. Her boyfriend is constantly making fun of me and my other friends. Once he even made fun of my mom! We have talked to my friend twice, but she never stands up for us or anything! I really don't want to give up this friendship because she used to be my best friend, before she sold her soul to her boyfriend.

—FED UP

Good for you for trying to save the friendship! You're absolutely right that this friend has sort of lost herself by going out with this boy. Talk to her one more time. Let her know that you are hurt by her boyfriend's behavior and that you expect her to stick up for you when he's being rude. If the insults continue, though, let the friendship go—at least for now. This crush won't last forever, and when it ends, your BFF may come to her senses. If she does, give her another chance.

dear Ali,

I've been friends with my BFF since first grade. But now she's been acting kind of mean to me. She doesn't play with me very much, and she would rather have another friend over than me! I asked her over, but she said no and then she turned around and invited this other girl to her house! When I asked her why she did that, she started making up lies so she wouldn't have to come over. Should I give up on this friendship?

—MISTREATED

You've done everything right by talking to your friend and asking her what's going on, and she responded with lies and excuses. It's hard to give up on a close friendship, though, so you may want to give her one more chance. Tell her that you feel that, judging from her actions, this friendship must be over. Let her know that you're going to stop asking her over, but that you still think of her as your friend and if she ever wants to start hanging out together again all she has to do is ask. Don't sit around waiting for her, though—put your energy into making

new friends!

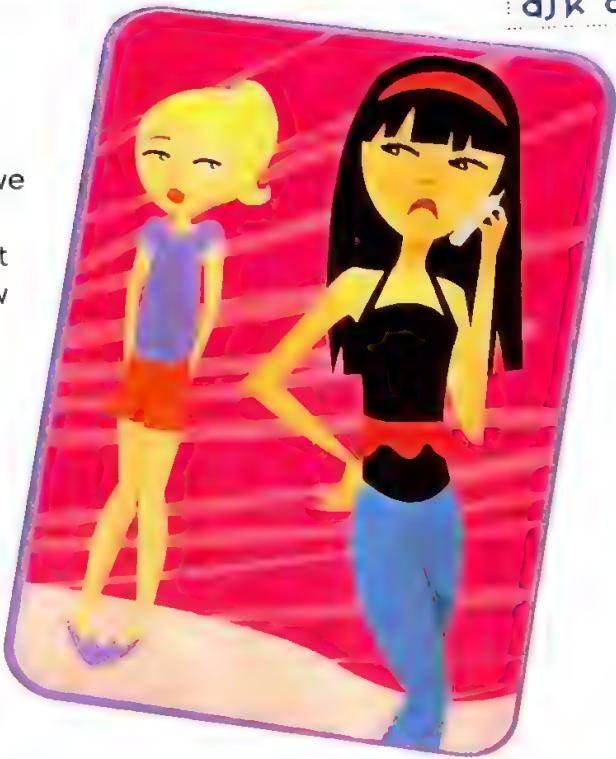


dear ALi.

My best friend has a problem. Sometimes when we have sleepovers, she'll say that she spilled something in her sleeping bag or that she doesn't want us to go near her bed or her sleeping bag. I know it's because she wet the bed—it's so obvious! I told my mom, but she said to say nothing, and that it's not my BFF's fault. So I kept quiet. But a few days ago, we were at my other friend's house and it happened again! My BFF tried to hide it but my friend knew and she got mad and my BFF got very red. Should I still have my BFF over for sleepovers? Should I confront her and tell her I know and that it's okay?

—BEDWETTER'S FRIEND

Your friend's problem isn't unusual—many kids have problems with bed-wetting, and most will outgrow them by the time they are teens. The best way to help your friend with her embarrassment is just to deal with it in a matter-of-fact way. Sometime when you are alone with your BFF, tell her that you know what's going on and you don't care and don't think it's a big deal. Let her know that you think she makes it more obvious by trying to cover it up. Then put your heads together, maybe with your mom's help, and think about what you can do. Your friend might want to wear absorbent underwear when at a sleepover (no one would need to know), or maybe she could put a towel or waterproof pad in her sleeping bag, and then quietly roll it up in the morning and put it in a plastic bag that she's brought from home. Whatever the solution, you will have helped your friend just by letting her know you care and are not judging her.



dear ALi,

I said some mean things to this popular girl on the other soccer team. (She's kind of a brat.) Now she's telling everyone in school what I said. I'm not really the kind of person who says that kind of thing, and I totally take it back. I want to tell her I'm sorry, but I'm scared to approach her. What should I do?

—TRULY SORRY

From time to time, we all say things we don't mean. It's great that you realize you were wrong and want to apologize. Keep in mind, though, that you don't have any control over how the girl reacts. The important thing is that you do what you need to do for your own peace of mind. So swallow your fear, and the next time you see the opportunity, tell her that you are sorry for what you said. She may not tell the whole school that you apologized, but you will know you've done the right thing.

Send your letters to:

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Learn to Accept Criticism

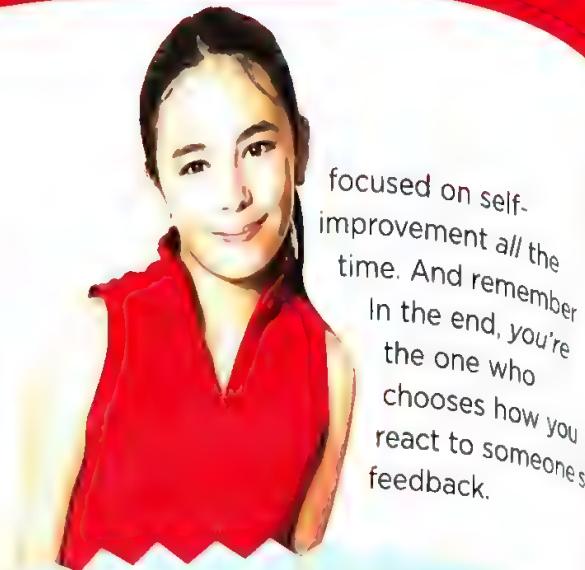
"When my dad kept correcting my ice-skating moves, it made me want to quit. But when I told him I felt pressured, he said I should focus on improving rather than getting upset that I'm not perfect. Slowly, I realized he had a point. The next time I showed up for practice with my coach, she said everything was looking really great!"

—Sofiya, age 11, British Columbia

When you're being criticized, it can be hard to separate the useful bits—the comments that can actually help you improve—from the nasty ones that eat away at your confidence. When your coach barks, "Can't you run any faster?!" or your mom asks, "Are you sure you want to wear that?" the only message you hear may be, "You're not good enough." And that makes you want to put your hands over your ears and just stop listening.

But consider this: If the criticism comes from someone who truly has your best interests at heart, it may contain valuable information that can help you improve. Instead of shutting him or her out or going on the defensive ("I'm doing the best I can!" "But I *love* this ratty old sweatshirt!") try to open yourself up to the possibility that your criticizer might be even just a *little bit* correct. It may be hard to appreciate this when you're feeling criticized, but the person is giving you an honest opinion and may sincerely be trying to help. If you listen, you might learn something.

On the other hand, if somebody's nitpicking is sapping your enjoyment of an activity, you don't have to give their words the power to make you feel bad. If you're feeling extra sensitive today, tune out your dance teacher's harping on your posture, at least for now, and dance just because you love it. You don't have to be



focused on self-improvement all the time. And remember In the end, you're the one who chooses how you react to someone's feedback.

Be Your Own Best Friend

"Whenever I watch TV, there's some show on about celebrities. They always look so pretty, and it gets me thinking about how I never look that good. But then I think to myself, *you're pretty in your own way, especially on the inside*. And I think about how special I really am."

—Lindsay, age 10, Md.

If your best friend blurted out that she felt dumb or ugly, would you just stand there as the poor girl sobbed...or worse, agree with her? Of course not! You'd rush to remind your friend of all the ways she rocks. So why not treat yourself with the same kindness? Next time you hear yourself thinking negative thoughts about *you* because you're not perfect, pretend you're your own best friend. Remind yourself of what matters in your life: your health, your values, your friends and family, your inner beauty. Reassure yourself as often as you need to...before the unfair comparisons take over.

Remember, you have the power to make yourself nuts trying to be perfect (whatever that means), but you also have the power to make yourself happy—and to love the person you are. And being perfect? You're too busy being you to bother with that! ☮

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TIME SPY?



Maze Instructions

Start your adventure with the spyglass, and follow the rider through the maze.



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Maze Letters Solution: YOKTOWN Unscrambled Letters Solution: BONE CABIN QUIARY



IN SPORTS, WHAT REALLY MATTERS MOST:

HOW YOU PLAY, OR WINNING?

Of readers who responded:

74% said "How you play"
3% said "Winning"
23% said "Both"



If you are playing a sport that makes you feel good and happy, you've already won no matter how the score comes out! But if you're playing on a team that only cares about winning and is willing to make sacrifices or to be mean in order to win, you don't have to follow that path. Playing for love makes victory sweeter and losing bearable.

Love the game—then enjoy the win!

-LEAH, AGE 11, MASS.

I think what matters most is winning. It doesn't matter if you run too slowly, or you can't hit, kick, throw, and catch as well as your teammates. You should just keep your eye on winning and the other team, and that

will build up your confidence, help you to get better, and you'll possibly learn some new strategies. You don't have to be perfect at the sport, but believing in yourself will help you to have fun and to win!

-ALEXA, AGE 12, CALIF



I believe how you play matters most. When you're playing on a team, it's important to communicate with your teammates, work smoothly together, and cheer each other on. Winning is not everything, and sometimes you have to lose first in order to win later. You can learn from every loss—all you have to do is ask yourselves, "What could we have done better today?" Once you've figured that out, you're almost guaranteed to win the next game!

-AZARRA, AGE 11, ILL



Everyone always says that it doesn't matter whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. But in today's competitive world of sports many people find this hard to believe. However, the way you play has a huge impact on whether you win or lose. After all, if you don't play very well, how are you going to win? It's important to know when you should be competitive and when you should play just to play. Sometimes being competitive is a good thing, because it motivates you. But the most important thing is to focus on doing your best and being a good sport.

-RACHEL, AGE 13, R

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FASHION

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go!

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season's coolest styles
• Double-sole
• Faux fur/feathers





Outdoors... in Style

Mismatched layers,
sparkly scarves, the
cutest boots...put 'em
together for a look you
can ride with!

Sitting Pretty

Just hanging out?
Pair a pretty tunic
with lace-trimmed
leggings or ultra-
cool cords. Add
instant flair with
ballet flats—and a
matching purse!





Festive Fun

Holiday party, here you come!
Dress up denim with the prettiest
tops in pink and purple, then
glam it up with accessories!

Top: \$24.99 at JCPenney, \$30 at Macy's stores. Moto jeans, \$34.99 at JCPenney, \$39.99 at Macy's stores. High Intercity Choker necklace, \$19 at JCPenney. Long by Claire's ring, \$5 at Long by Claire's stores. That's So Raven top, \$9.99; and jeans, \$19.99, both at Kmart. New Girl purse, \$28 at Outfitter stores. Goody Headband, \$3.99 at JCPenney. New Girl minklers long by Claire's earrings, \$9.99 at Long by Claire's stores. High Intercity bracelet, \$7.99 at Claire's stores. On Color Sky Girl, \$15.99 at JCPenney stores. macy's-intercity.com, k-mart.com, claire's.com.



HAVE YOU EVER worried that you're different from all your classmates, even to the point of being, well...weird? Well, guess what? That's a very normal thing to fret about! But even knowing that may not be enough to set your mind at ease, so we've tackled some of your most common concerns. We think you'll feel a lot more normal by the time you're done reading this...

TOO LITTLE TOO LONG?

I m in middle school, but I still like watching Saturday morning cartoons and playing with dolls. (I know...pathetic, right?) Last week my friends saw an American Girl doll under my bed, and I was so embarrassed I lied and said it was my little sister's. Why can't I give up kid stuff like everyone else?

-KENDALL, AGE 12 NC

First of all, there's nothing pathetic about enjoying cartoons at 12—or even at 90! Instead of trying to give up the things you love, why not just gradual

add a few new interests to the mix? Rent a *Hannah Montana* DVD or invite a fashion-conscious friend to the mall. Finding new favorite activities keeps life interesting. But keep up your old faves, too, as long as they're still fun.

There's no law saying you have to inform your friends about every activity you enjoy. But if it does come up, remember that you have nothing to be ashamed of. Make no apologies: "Yeah, I've always loved those dolls. It's cool how they're based on different times in history." Who knows? You may even discover a friend has the same interest, but has been afraid to admit it to you. And if someone does give you grief for having "babyish" interests, just smile and say, "I don't mind if people think it's immature. I like it." If you can accept yourself, most people will accept you.

JUST JEALOUS...OR BAD BUD?

"I love my friends, but when one of them gets an A+ or scores more goals in soccer, I get so jealous. For a minute, I feel like I hate my friend. One part of me wants to be happy for her, but this other big part of me just thinks, I wish that was me! Do other girls feel that way or am I just a rotten friend?"

-RENEE, AGE 11, CALIF

Envy hurts the most when you're jealous of a friend. After all, we're supposed to celebrate her wins, not feel *bad* about them, right? Too bad our feelings don't always cooperate! Human beings are naturally competitive, and sometimes that drive for success can lead to the (perfectly normal) emotion of jealousy.

The good news is, emotions can't make you a bad or good friend...only actions can. Compliment her right away, even if it feels fake. Then take a few deep breaths and remind yourself that jealousy passes, but friendship remains. Be passionate about achieving *your* goals. When you see yourself improving daily, it's easier to be excited about the success of others.

BOYS: WHO CARES...RIGHT?

"All my friends have boyfriends, but no guy has ever even liked me. Worse, I've never had a crush on anybody. Once I pretended I liked a boy in our class just so I wouldn't seem so weird...but then my friends tried to fix me up with him! I made up all these excuses for why I couldn't go out with him, but I really just didn't want to. Am I a total freak for not having those kinds of feelings?"

-JESS, AGE 11, IND

There seems to be a lot of pressure on girls these days to go out with boys long before they're teens. That's too bad, because dating before you're really ready can make the whole experience a lot more confusing—and a lot less fun! Some of your buds might even be happier if they could just be friends with boys instead.

At any rate, there's no "normal" age for a first crush. It'll happen when it happens. In the meantime, instead of making up pretend crushes, tell your friends you're just not ready to date yet. Reassure them that you'll keep them posted, and that it's fine with you if *they* have boyfriends. Real friends won't pressure you into dating (or anything else!) before you're ready.



DEVELOPED TOO SOON

Developing first is tough, but then again so is developing last. Both are absolutely normal, though. What's important is that you keep your self-consciousness in the sub. People probably aren't staring as much as you think—it just seems that way because you feel uncomfortable. Make sure you're standing proud, not hunching over to hide your body. And be open with your close friends so they know what you're going through and are sensitive about it. Most important: don't give up physical activity. Get a sports bra that really supports you and keep playing all your favorite games. Soon your classmates will start catching up, and things will get easier. First, though...

DARINGLY DIFFERENT, OR SIMPLY STRANGE?

Sometimes I feel like I'm an alien. All the girls I know are into sports or fashion, but I don't like either. My hobbies are drawing, reading science fiction, and writing in my blog. Even though I don't say much, I think people can tell I'm different, so it's kind of hard to make friends. I like who I am, but I wish I could be normal, too."

-MARDI, AGE 12

Congratulations on having a strong sense of self—and discovering hobbies you love! Now, the next step: finding the courage to really be yourself around others. People probably sense that you're holding back, and that may make them feel uncomfortable around you. It may be your belief that you can't show your true self, not your different interests, that makes it hard to make friends. The more you feel free to be yourself around others, the more likely you are to find people who share your interests.

It helps to keep an open mind, too. Sports and fashion come in countless "flavors." If basketball isn't your thing, how about snowboarding? Instead of drooling over the latest outfits, you might like making beaded jewelry. Stay positive, and we guarantee that many people will be open-minded enough to accept you for who you are, if you give them a chance to get to know you. ☺

RAVIN' REVIEWS

BOOKS, DVDS, and CDs



BOOK **On Christmas Eve** by Ann M. Martin (Scholastic Press)

Christmas will be magical this year—eight-year-old Tess just knows it! She plans to *finally* meet Santa, thank him for the years of presents, and request a true Christmas miracle. The father of Tess' best friend is sick, but Santa has the power to make him healthy again...right? A moving story about holding friendship and hope close on Christmas, and every day after. *For ages 9 to 12.*



BOOK **Lucy Rose: Busy Like You Can't Believe** by Katy Kelly Illustrated by Adam Rex (Delacorte Press)

Lucy Rose is all about "fabulinity." She's starring in the school play and loves bonding with her best bud, her mom, and her ultra-cool grandparents. The trouble is, Lucy Rose has a not-so-fabulous habit: eavesdropping. But with so much going on (her mom might have a boyfriend and her best friend could be moving) Lucy Rose *must* know all—and then do something about it! A story with style and sass! *For ages 8 to 12.*



DVD **Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman** (Lean Forward Media)

You call the shots in this icy action-packed adventure! Crista and her brothers have a mystery to solve in the breathtaking Himalayan Mountains. Danger lurks and intrigue is peaking... Will the kids find what they are looking for? How this story unfolds is up to you! Make your choices, then watch it again (and again) for an entirely different outcome!



DVD **Popular Mechanics for Kids: Lightning and Other Forces of Nature** (Koch Vision)

Think the science behind winter is one big yawn? Not a chance! This DVD is all about cool! Get a behind-the-scenes look at how sunny Hollywood movie sets become snowy scenes, learn how science keeps an ice-skater spinning, and get the scoop on building a house of ice that keeps you *warm*. An enlightening look at nature's wonders, for the chill (or, um, *thrill*) seeker!



CD **The Day Has Come** Cheyenne Kimball (Epic/Daylight)

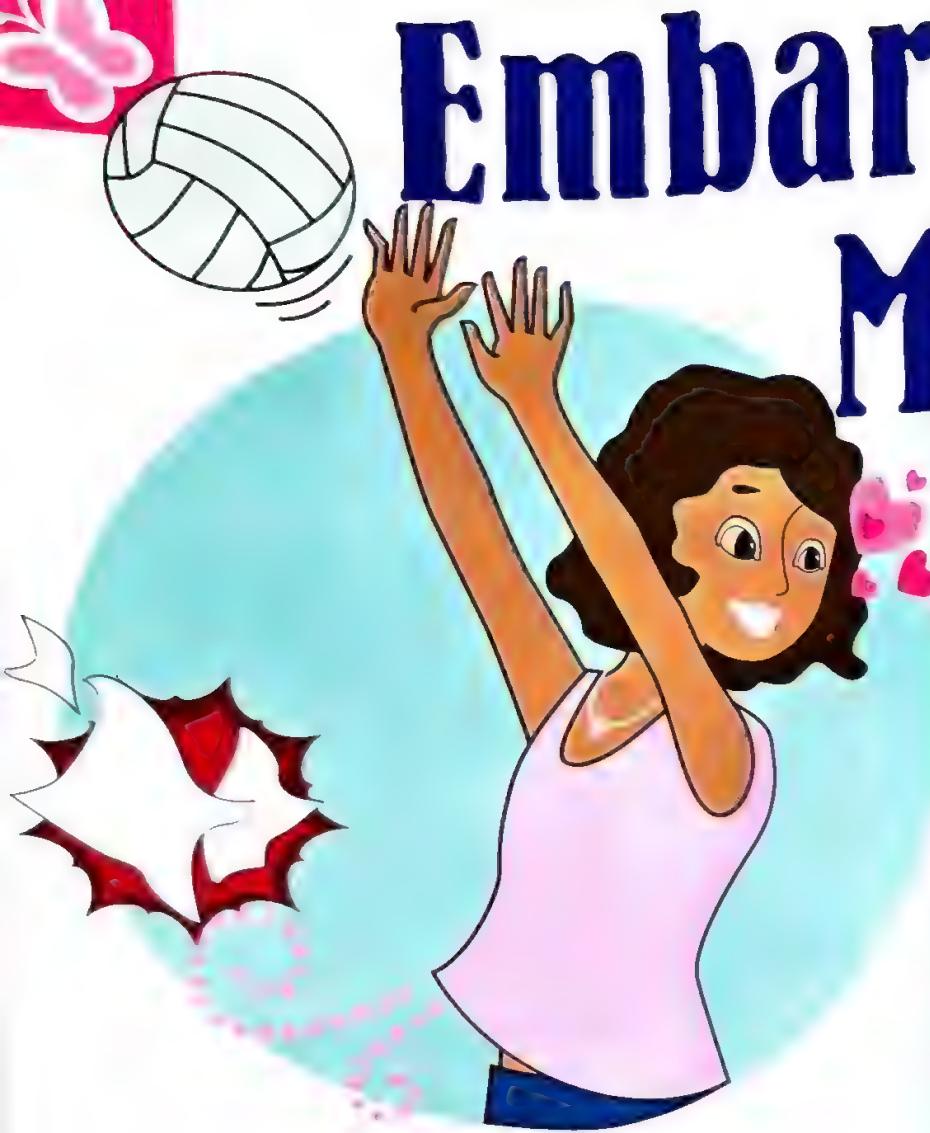
This debut album says it all: Cheyenne Kimball has arrived, and making music is her mission! The empowering "Hanging On" doesn't let go with its lyrics about being focused and strong, despite a bad day. And "I Want To" and "Everything to Lose" get at a truth about life: No matter how it goes, there's always something to sing about!



CD **Acoustic Hearts of Winter** Aly & AJ (Hollywood Records)

Usher in winter Aly & AJ-style with their first-ever holiday collection! The talented sisters offer up their enchanting renditions of the season's classics, including "Joy to the World," "Deck the Halls," and "Let It Snow." Then the girls melt hearts with two songs they penned, "Greatest Time of Year" and "Not This Year" which celebrate their dazzling talent. A musical gem!

Embarrassing Moments



Me and My Bright Idea

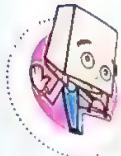
One day in P.E. we were playing volleyball and—yes!—my crush was on my team!

When the ball came toward me, I reached up and hit it, hoping to impress him with my moves! My crush *did* notice, because he walked right over to me and said, “Hey, do you have any tissues?” Then he pointed to the floor. I’d stuffed my bra that morning, and the tissues were everywhere! Everyone saw them, and I broke into tears on the spot. I will never stuff my bra again!



Knock...Not

I had to go to the restroom really badly, so when I finally found a good time to sneak off to the one in our classroom, I rushed in and forgot to lock the door. Unfortunately, this cute boy swung the door wide open—yup, without knocking—and my classmates all got a great view of my bare tush! I was so embarrassed I stayed in the restroom until class ended.



Oh, Glow!

It was a rainy day so my family and I went glow-in-the-dark miniature golfing. When we walked inside, everything white started glowing. My dad’s white shoes were glowing and so were my brother’s teeth. No big deal, right? Well, after a few holes a couple of people—including my family—were looking at me and laughing really hard. “What’s so funny?” I asked. My dad just pointed at my chest. My white bra was glowing right through my off-white shirt!



“Um...let’s pretend that didn’t happen.”



“If you need me, I’ll be under my desk.”



EMBARRASS-O-METER

“I’ll leave now.”



Secrets No More

It hadn't taken me long to fill the pages of my new journal with details about my crushes and super-juicy secrets. Without thinking, I left it on my desk while our class was taking a test, though, and my teacher picked it up—and started reading *out loud!* I asked her to stop but she read the whole thing anyway! Everybody was laughing so hard—including my four crushes—that I hid my head in my desk for the rest of class! Even people who weren't there *still* talk about it!

When Nature...Screams!



My class was on a camping field trip and, unfortunately, there weren't any bathrooms.

So when nature called, I went in search of a private place to go. I finally found a place I *thought* was safe, so I pulled down my pants. At that moment, I saw a girl staring right at me—and she screamed! All the teachers ran up to see what was going on and saw the girl pointing at me with my pants down! The teachers were relieved it was just me, but I wanted to disappear!

Pee-E!



Our gym teacher never lets us go to the bathroom during class, but one day I had to pee really badly. I raised my hand

and she just ignored me. I kept my hand up until she finally answered me. "I have to go!" I begged. "Too bad," she said. "You have to wait." I was so mad but I tried to hold it in...until I just couldn't! Suddenly there was the sound of water dripping—and then a big puddle right under me! Everyone was laughing...except my teacher. She just yelled, "Now you can go to the bathroom—and clean up that mess!" I was so embarrassed!



It's Not My Bag!



One day I couldn't find my bag for basketball practice, so I used my sister's bag to hold my shoes. When I got to practice, I reached into the bag to pull out my shoes and my sister's underwear fell out instead! The entire team saw, and everyone started laughing! For the next week they all made fun of me for "taking [my] underwear off" during practice!

Send your embarrassing moments to:

Discovery Girls
P.O. Box 110760
Campbell, CA 95011
emoments@discoverygirls.com



quiz

Are You Too Cliquey?

By Ashley Zubeck

START

Your BFFs...
and only
your BFFs

Slide...
right over
to make
more
room

Um, yeah...
Your group
does like
the school

Whoever happens
to be standing next
to you...

Are girls
at school
intimidated
by you
and your
friends?

No way! There's
no one you all
won't say hi to!

Sorry! You
and your
BFFs are an
even num-
ber, and
she'd throw
it off!

Your new
neighbor is in
your class. Do
you introduce
her to your
buds?

Sure!
more
merr



When a new girl wants to sit with your crew at lunch, you:

Totally bummed! Now you're in dull Dorksville!

Seat switcheroo! Your teacher moves you across the classroom from your friends!

You are:

Intrigued! Maybe you'll make a new friend.

Only if you can bring them along...

You've been invited to a slumber party, but your BFFs weren't. Do you show up?

Give her a look that says: You should know better!

Never! It's always the same (great) girls!

Do you ever have trouble deciding on your slumber party guest list?

Yeah! You never know which of your many (many) friends to invite...

You're good enough to be on the competitive soccer team, but you'll know no one. The rec league is where all your pals pay! You choose:

There's room for four on the school carnival ride, but there are only three in your group. Do you grab a fourth or go minus one?

Yeah! You wouldn't miss a party for anything!

Grab a fourth for ultimate fun!

It's time to pick partners for your science project. You choose:

You BFF A+!

The rec league. Enough said!

Someone new...maybe the new boy will have some great ideas!

The competitive team! You didn't train all year to gab!

Minus one...you prefer it to be just the three of you anyway.

Strictly Cliquey

It's great to have a crew of close friends, but you tend to keep your social circle a little too tight. The problem? You are excluding potentially fabulous new friends!

Branch out a bit—you'll find that times are terrific when everyone is included and you won't seem like a snob!

"Cliquey" Into Fun

You do have your crew, but you make an effort to balance the great friends you have with the new ones you want!

There's always room in your life for one (or two or three...) more buds, which guarantees you a good time in any situation

Completely Un-cliquey

You're up for a friendship with just about anybody. (Hey, it keeps life interesting!) Your motto: The more, the merrier! Cliquey you are not, but don't neglect your BFF either! She may want some one-on-one time with ultra-social you!

Holiday Gifts

Your wish list is here!



Clarice Bean Boxed Set
Candlewick Press, \$15.97 * Get up
to speed with Clarice Bean and
then write your own stories!



L. Mo & Friends
\$4.95 * Your new plush,
best friend. The best part?
It helps help homeless cats.



Massively Mini Media
Tiger Electronics, \$79.99 * Small size—
major fun! Watch digital camera videos,
store photos, and jam to your personal
playlist.



Nintendo DS Lite
\$149.99 * Get your
inner rock star ready to play up to 10 hours
after recharge.



Dance Factory
Codemasters, \$39.99 * Your
PlayStation plays tunes you choose!
Perfect for your next party!
(Playable with any dance mat.)

Illustration: Absolutely You Toys, R' Us stores, target.com, walmart.com, Barrel Bay
Clarice Bean: amazon.com, bn.com, Crochet Away!: bookstores nationwide
Factory: Best Buy and Wal-Mart stores, Draw Manga: Michaels stores, amazon.com

Illustration: Absolutely You Toys, R' Us stores, target.com, walmart.com, Barrel Bay
Clarice Bean: amazon.com, bn.com, Crochet Away!: bookstores nationwide
Factory: Best Buy and Wal-Mart stores, Draw Manga: Michaels stores, amazon.com



Crochet Away! by Julie Haze
\$12.99 * Your
inspiration is here! Crochet cool
one-of-a-kind creations!

Dance Factory
Codemasters, \$39.99 * Your
PlayStation plays tunes you choose!
Perfect for your next party!
(Playable with any dance mat.)



FEATURES
NEW
EPISODE

Hannah Montana: Livin' the Rock Star Life! (Volume 1) $\frac{1}{2}$ **Wait Disney Home Entertainment, \$19.99** $\frac{1}{2}$ How the hit show began, the very first episodes, and Miley's audition tapes

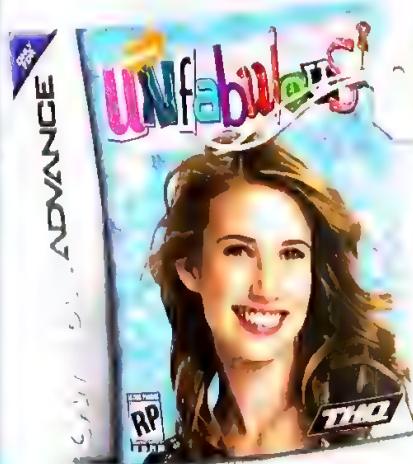
Fashion Design Studio Set
Fashion Angels, \$24 * For every
fashionista! All you need to sketch
sensational styles!



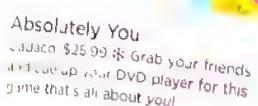
MIX Max
Disney \$99 * Entertainment to the
max! Check out *High School Musical*
and other faves, from music to
movies to photos!



Draw Manga Drawing Kit
Loew-Cornell, \$16.99 * Love to
draw? Here's all you need to cre-
ate your own Manga characters!



Unfabulous for Game Boy
Advance * THQ, \$29.99 * Dive
into Addie's life for fabulous fun
A must-have for Unfabulous fans!



Chococat Eye Mask &
Fleece Throw * Sanrio, \$20
Unwind in style with the charming
Chococat!

worst day

MY DAD LOST HIS JOB!

By Lindsey,* age 13, Vt.



Do you know what it's like not to have much money? I do, and it's no fun. Last year, right after I started seventh grade, my dad lost his job—and suddenly, we were broke.

GETTING THE BAD NEWS

I knew something was wrong when I got home from school that day. My dad was home in the middle of the day, which was really weird, and my mom's eyes were all red. At first I was afraid something bad had happened to one of my relatives or something. But then my mom said, "Your dad's company is losing money, so they fired him, and a lot of other people, too."

I was relieved no one was hurt or sick, but I was scared, too. My mom's job was taking care of my little brother and sister and me. What would we live on if my dad didn't have a job? My mom said not to worry, that we'd be okay. She and my dad would figure it out somehow.

That made me feel better, and I really *didn't* worry about it very much at first. But it got to be Halloween...and then Thanksgiving...and my dad *still* wasn't working. My parents never used to fight much, but I'd hear them arguing at night now. My little sister would be sleeping peacefully

in the other bed, but I'd be lying there biting my fingernails, wide awake. Sometimes I'd put a pillow over my head to block them out, but that didn't stop my brain from worrying. What if my parents got divorced, on top of everything else?

DETERMINED NOT TO TELL

I didn't tell anyone at school about my dad or our money problems. I was afraid I'd get teased, like a girl who'd been in my fifth grade class who was poor. Kids called her names and made fun of her because she bought clothes at the Goodwill. I couldn't even bring myself to tell Megan, my best friend, because she was rich. Not like a movie star or anything, but she lived in a big fancy house with a pool, and she always had the coolest stuff, like tons of new clothes, and the latest cell phone and iPod. I was too embarrassed to tell her that my dad didn't even have a job anymore.

It had always *kind of* bothered me that Megan was so rich. She was an only child, and it seemed like she got everything she wanted. But I also

knew that she hardly saw her dad, because they were always working, and she didn't see being an only child. I used to see around that she was welcome to take my brother any time. So I wasn't that jealous before. But it started to bug me that Megan had so much stuff when all I ever heard was "We can't afford

Megan and I got in a couple of fights... you all but in a little we made up again. Then we got in a huge fight over this social studies project we were supposed to do together. I lost it and called her a b*ssy, and she didn't talk to me with some other girls instead. For some reason I didn't make up. There were days when I

wanted to apologize so badly—the fight was my fault, really—but I just felt down and mad at the whole world. It was easier just to be alone so I acted like I didn't care if Megan was ignoring me. Pretty soon she was best friends with Tamara, this popular girl. I knew this fight was kind of mean, and I was just useless.

NO SANTA THIS YEAR

By then it was almost Christmas. My parents said money was really tight, so my brother and sister and I would get just one small gift each. They said it would be good for all of us to be a little more focused on the real meaning of Christmas instead of on getting all that loot," as my dad said. I don't want to sound like a spoiled brat... I was grateful that my family was together, that no one was sick or hurt, and that we weren't hungry or homeless or anything really awful like that. But I was sure it was going to be a horrible Christmas. I'd hear people talking about how they couldn't wait for December 25, and then I'd think about how Christmas would just be one big reminder that we were broke, and I'd lost my best friend. I didn't even think we'd have a tree or a turkey!

A few days before Christmas, our doorbell rang. I didn't know it, but my mom had asked to receive one of the food baskets our church delivers to "families in need" at Christmastime

When I came to the front door, I saw my mom talking to a couple of women from our church. One of them was Megan's mom, and standing right next to her were Megan and Tamara.

CHRISTMAS
WAS COMING,
AND THERE WAS
NO MONEY
FOR PRESENTS.

I was so humiliated. All I could think of was what they would tell people at school the next day. The rumors would start flying, and I'd be labeled "the poor girl," or something even worse. I turned around and ran to my room, wishing I could crawl in a hole and hide forever.

Later that night, though, Megan called. "Why didn't you tell me your dad lost his job?" she asked. "I didn't even know anything was wrong. Are you okay?"

It was so nice to hear her voice again, and she sounded sincerely worried about me. "Uh... not really," I admitted. "Everything stinks." Pretty soon I found myself telling her everything. It was a relief to finally let it all out.

After that night, we were friends again. I even got to be sort-of friends with Tamara, who never teased me at all. Even Christmas was a lot better than I'd expected. We did have a small tree and thanks to the food basket from the church we had turkey and sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. We even started some new traditions, like a "Christmas Treasure Hunt." My parents seemed happy, and we were together and having fun.

You have to have money to live, but it really isn't the most important thing. I know that now—and I'll never let my jealousy over stuff almost ruin another Christmas or mess up things between my best friend and me again.

My dad is working again—he started his own business. My mom's working part-time, too, and I don't hear them fighting anymore. My mom was right—we will be okay. 

Do You Mind Your

By Lyn Mehe'ula

Take this quiz and find out!

1 *Bor-ing!* Your friend has spent the past hour going on (and on) about her family's wacky holiday dinner. You:

- a. Snore out loud. *That* should make a statement...
- b. Listen until she's through, of course.
- c. Politely change the subject. Hey, you got the coolest gift...

2 *P-U!* A boy you know accidentally farted at your class Christmas party! You:

- a. Pretend it never happened. Poor guy! He must be so embarrassed...
- b. Ask, "Who cut the cheese?!" and laugh along with your classmates.
- c. Shoot him a knowing look, then head for the other side of the room.

3 Yum...oh, wait! Your neighbor just brought over her home-baked chocolate chip cookies, and they're black around the edges! You:

- a. Say, "I always keep cookies in the oven way too long, too!"
- b. Thank her nicely, then ask how her holidays were.
- c. Make a "yuck" face and remind her that the trash is under the sink

ick



4 Oops! Hanukkah was weeks ago, and you forgot to send Great-Aunt Margaret a thank-you card! You:

- a. Can't do anything about it now.
- b. Mail her a thank-you card immediately, with an extra-special "sorry" for your lateness.
- c. Call her when you know she's not home and leave a thank-you message on her answering machine.

Manners?

5 Your aunt and uncle give you a pink teddy-bear sweater that's just adorable...for a five-year-old! You:

- a. Thank them sincerely. They meant well, anyway.
- b. Act really nervous and toss it aside, afraid you might let the truth slip.
- c. Say, "You know, I graduated from kindergarten several years ago," then ask for the receipt.

6 You're throwing a pre-holiday break bash, but you can only invite 10 classmates. You:

- a. Pass out the invitations during lunch, as the entire table looks on.
- b. Mail your invites to their homes, with a note requesting that they not talk about the party at school.
- c. Slip the invites secretly to each of them after school.

7 TV 911! Your visiting cousins want to watch their favorite sitcom which airs at the *exact* same time as your favorite singer's live holiday special! You:

- a. Show them how to use the remote control, then watch the special in your parent's bedroom upstairs.
- b. Politely explain that this is your house, so you'll *all* be watching your show. It's quite simple, really...
- c. Watch the sitcom. Your guests get to decide this one...

quiz

Are your manners marvelous?

Add 'em up!

- 1. a. 1 b. 3 c. 2
- 2. a. 3 b. 1 c. 2
- 3. a. 2 b. 3 c. 1
- 4. a. 1 b. 3 c. 2
- 5. a. 3 b. 2 c. 1
- 6. a. 1 b. 3 c. 2
- 7. a. 2 b. 1 c. 3

Manners Master

Please, thank you, you're very welcome...you certainly give these words a workout! But that's not the only way you display your best behavior: You have a great sense of respect for everyone whether it's your BFF, a classmate, or a rarely-seen relative. Your marvelous manners will serve you well in school, with friends, at work...wherever life takes you!

Manners on Your Mind

You would never be in-your-face rude. (That's so not you!) But sometimes, your actions may seem less polite than you intend. Not sure how to act? Manners can be tricky, but the bottom line is always consideration for others. Think about how you'd want to be treated if you were in the other person's shoes, and the answer should be clear.

Mind Your Manners!

Time for a crash course in manners! You tend to act and speak *before* you think, which can result in careless comments, hurt feelings, and rocky relationships! We know you don't want to seem mean, so pay much more attention to how your words and actions appear to others. Before long, you'll be Miss Manners to all!

What Makes A CHAMPION

These inspiring athletes want you to

match the inspiring quote



a. *Sasha Cohen*



b. *Hannah Teter*



c. *Lisa Leslie*

Winner of three Olympic gold medals and the first female to win a gold medal in a professional game.

1. "I love challenges."

With the desire to win, I always challenge myself to do better. I always want to be the best and I always want to be the best at what I do.

2. "Realize that"

Realize that you are the best. You are the best at what you do. You are the best at what you have. You are the best at what you can do.

3. "If I never think I am ready, then I can never win. Always think positively."

If I never think I am ready, then I can never win. Always think positively. I always expect the best of myself. That gives me the best platform to perform at my potential.

CHAMPION?

the sports superstars?

By Naomi Kirsten



J. Maria Sharapova

Winner of the 2006 U.S. Open and two Grand Slam singles titles

3. Natalie Coughlin

Winner of five Olympic medals in 2004 (tied the record for the most medals won by a U.S. female athlete in one Games)



4. Carly Patterson

Champion in the all-around at the 2004 Olympic Games



5. Michelle Wie

Youngest player to turn pro at 15



5. Life is like a blank page.
Create our own living masterpiece.
Elves, I look at every day as an opportunity to grow."

6. "Hard work
always pays off. Perseverance, discipline, and commitment are needed to be a champion. Love what you do and enjoy the journey—it's just as important as the end result."

7. "I want to be the best every day. I can't rest on yesterday's accomplishments... I am constantly trying to find different parts of my game that need improvement."

ANSWERS: 1. b, 2. d, 3. a, 4. c, 5. e, 6. f, 7. g, 8. h

DG December/January 2007



On Her Way...

Cheyenne KIMBALL

By Naomi Kirsten



Don't miss Cheyenne's debut album, *The Day Has Come* (Epic/Dreyfuss).



After winning America's Most Talented Kid at 13, Cheyenne Kimball snapped up a record deal with a major label—and a major catch: She'd release a CD, but not for three years! And so Cheyenne waited and waited (and waited), writing songs and enjoying a typical teenage life off-stage. But finally her 16th birthday approached—and with it, success! Not only did her first album hit store shelves, Cheyenne had her very own reality show! So how does this rising star truly feel about her hard-earned fame? Cheyenne let us in on the real deal—and the cameras weren't even rolling!

What does the title of your album, *The Day Has Come*, mean to you?

Cheyenne: It's about me *finally* getting out there and getting my music to people. And it's about being tired of waiting around!

You must have gotten impatient with all that waiting!

Cheyenne: I *did* feel that I was ready [to have a career] when I was 13, so waiting three years was really tough for me. But I was really young when I won on the show, and I really wasn't ready for all of this yet. Still...I am *not* a very patient person.

Do you have anything you must bring on tour?

Cheyenne: Yeah, my whole wardrobe! No—seriously, I'm so on-the-go all the time that I sort of throw things in a suitcase and leave.

How would you describe your style?

Cheyenne: I have so many style moods! One day I'll want to wear tights and one day I'll just want to wear jeans and a T-shirt. I always wear heels, though.

What was it like to have cameras follow you around for your MTV reality show, Cheyenne?

Cheyenne: It was definitely hard, but you get used to it. You start to forget about the cameras after a while. And the crew kind of became our family, so it never felt like they were out to get me or make me look bad.

Did you ever feel like saying, "Can you turn the cameras off? I'm having a moment!"?

Cheyenne: It wasn't really an issue. There were times when I'd want them off, but they didn't film every day, 24 hours a day. There would be weeks off at a time. But having a reality show is something you *definitely* have to think hard about before doing it!

What qualities in a best friend are important to you?

Cheyenne: Someone who's supportive and doesn't get "iffy" about my career—someone who will always be there for me. My best friend is amazing! She's so supportive but she also gives me time to breathe. I can go weeks without talking to her when I'm extremely busy and it doesn't bother her at all. We pick up right where we left off.

Have you ever had to deal with jealousy?

Cheyenne: Oh yeah, definitely! I lost a lot of friends over this career, and that's been hard. Either people were really jealous and not supportive, or it was overkill and the response just seemed really fake. That's why I left public school—I just couldn't handle that anymore!

Do you miss anything about public school?

Cheyenne: I'm a very social person, so I miss being able to mingle with my friends. And sometimes I wish I could just go to high school for a week to see what it's like!

Do you have advice for girls who might want to jumpstart a career?

Cheyenne: If you really have a passion for something, go for it—but don't do it for the wrong reasons. Don't do it for money. Don't do it for fame. That's not going to get you anywhere! If you have a good head on your shoulders and you don't take anything for granted, I think you have a really good chance of becoming something.

Have you gotten any advice from someone you admire?

Cheyenne: Yeah, I met [the singer] John Mayer recently and I told him that I was having some really tough times lately. People can just get so rude when you're in the public eye—very nit-picky. His advice was *not* to read the message boards online! He said it's like listening in on a conversation—you're just bound to get hurt. That was great advice, and I definitely *haven't* read any message boards since!

Have you had a recent experience that made you think, "I'm getting famous..."?

Cheyenne: I was getting off the bus and a girl came up to me and started crying. She said, "My dad's not letting me go to your show and I thought I was *never* going to see you!" We took a picture together and then she just walked off without saying goodbye—she just started crying again! And then I walked onstage recently and some girls near the front just burst into tears when they saw me. I've done that before—just burst into tears when I've seen somebody. It's kind of uncontrollable, and it's so incredible to know that I can do that to someone! 

oddz 'n endz

www.illustrationsgo.com

Jaci, do I need to remind you of your last-minute letter-writing campaign of 2002?

Or back in '03? The Third Tri-Fold Letter-writing Form for 2003.



How about the time you appointed yourself the "Holiday Ambassador of Goodwill," thinking that would help?

The Holiday Ambassador of Goodwill.



Why not try to be good throughout the year so you'll stay on the "nice" list?

But, Jaci! Here you are trying to make nice Santa's list. And I'm not even on it.



ONE MORE WORD OUT OF YOU, KRISSEY, AND WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON, YOU'LL BE ON THE "NAUGHTY" LIST TILL YOU'RE 20!



Holiday Memories

FROM OUR WASHINGTON DISCOVERY GIRLS

Our family's Cuban so every year we have a Christmas gumbo—a yummy meat and seafood stew you eat with soft rice. It's delicious! After that, my dad reads the *Cajun Night Before Christmas* by Trostclair. Instead of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh, it's alligators!

-CHLOE, AGE 11

I celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah. I love playing dreidel, eating the chocolate money lighting the menorah and singing the prayer. It makes me feel like I'm part of something special.

-HALEY, AGE 12

While in Venezuela for Christmas we found a stray puppy. He had a huge stomach because he was starving but he was so sweet! The locals kept saying, 'Oh, that's the kind of dog we throw away.' We were crushed—until we found a couple who fell in love with him! It was the most unforgettable Christmas because we truly gave!

-LILITH, AGE 12

"The year I was three, my cousin, sister, and I decided to perform 'The Nutcracker' ballet for our parents. We gracefully pranced out in our tutus, but as soon as the music began, my sister and I shook our rears, yelling, 'Let's boogie!'"

-EMMA, AGE 11

"It's Santa, and he's running away!" my dad yelled. I was really little, but I swear I saw a little old man in a red suit high-tailing it across our field with a bulging sack over his shoulder! I will never forget that moment!

-ELEANOR, AGE 12

Gifts From Scratch

By Bill Rancic

Even if you're short on cash, you can still make family and friends extra-special gifts. Need ideas? Check 'em out!



Bake away.

Everyone loves a home-baked treat! Simple sugar cookies or gingerbread can be decorated for the holidays, and cakes and muffins are a treat, too! Just be sure to check with your mom or dad first, and clean up when you're done.

One-of-a-kind jewelry.

Braided friendship bracelets or beaded necklaces make great gifts, and you won't have to wipe out your savings on supplies: Beads, thread, and elastic cord cost little at your local crafts store. Best of all, your creation is one only you can give!



Picture this.

Paste photos of memorable moments on poster board, then add humorous sayings and words you've cut out of magazines. Or write your own comments with a colored or metallic pen! For a bud's birthday, make it a group effort—have everyone in your group add something to the collage!

Make music.

Share your love of music—and technology—by offering to download music onto a friend or family member's new mp3 player. Or fill a CD with their favorite songs (and a few of your own)!



Frames for all!

Break out your paint pens and give a plain frame personality! Or make a frame from scratch (it's easy!): Glue four Popsicle sticks together in a square, then tape a photo behind it. Decorate the sticks with glitter, sequins, shells, or beads.

Remember: The best gifts come from the heart...and your hands. Think creatively, and have fun!

Bill Rancic, the first winner of NBC's smash hit show *The Apprentice*, is the author of *Beyond the Lemonade Stand: Starting Small to Make It Big*.

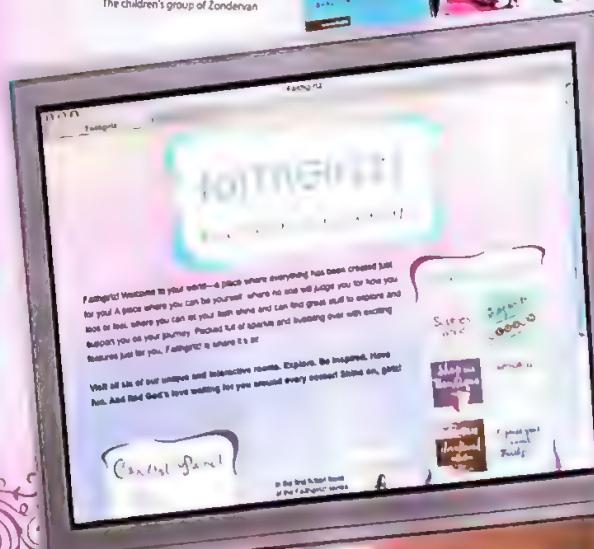
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The Creative Spirit

Looking for holiday crafts or gifts to make? Check out these sites!

kidsdomain.com/craft/chancandles1.html
Celebrate the Festival of Lights with Hanukkah candleholders you create from baby food jars, marbles, and paint markers!

dltk-holidays.com/xmas/gifts.htm
Make your own extra-special presents this year! How about a tasty "chocolate spoon" or a super-sweet snowman mug for Mom or Dad? There's even a dog biscuit recipe for your favorite pooch!

makingfriends.com/xmas_crafts.htm
Have fun decorating your home with ultra-cute Christmas crafts, from Santa and reindeer "yarn bugs," to a sparkly Christmas door hanger, to a stocking for your pet!

Coming up in DG...

Are you a practical joker? We want to hear about your most outrageous April Fool's jokes! What did you say or do, and what was the reaction?



Send your letters to:
Discovery Girls
P.O. Box 110760
Campbell, CA 95011
editorial@discoverygirls.com



HOLIDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 5. Holiday tunes
- 8. In Sweden, girls dress up as this saint
- 9. Potato pancakes
- 13. You make it out of clay
- 15. Don't steal this man's gumdrop buttons!
- 16. Means "first fruits" in Swahili
- 17. Frosty the _____

DOWN

- 1. Send your X-mas list here (two words)
- 2. Sugar Plum _____
- 3. Be good and you won't get this!
- 4. Santa Claus is a nickname for this saint
- 6. Stuffed with holiday cheer!
- 7. Pucker up under this!
- 10. Candy _____
- 11. Light it on Hanukkah
- 12. Reindeer love 'em!
- 14. Rudolph's most embarrassing trait (two words)

Cookies in a Jar

Cooking duo (and sisters!) Isabella and Olivia of spatulatta.com, an award-winning cooking web site for kids, have a gift idea that looks as good as it tastes!



1 Put the jar on the plate.

2 Measure the brown sugar: Use the spoon to scoop the brown sugar out of the measuring cup and into the jar. Pack it down slightly.

3 Roll the sheet of paper into a funnel shape. Make sure the small end is open about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches so the white sugar and flour pour through easily, then tape the edge of the paper in place.

4 Using your funnel, pour the white sugar into the jar. Give the jar a slight shake so the sugar makes a nice flat layer.

5 Pour the chocolate chips into the jar. Spread them around evenly with a spoon.

6 Finally, pour in the flour, the baking powder, and then the salt. Give the jar a little shake after each ingredient is added.

7 Screw the lid onto the jar.

8 Working on a clean surface, cut a 10-inch circle of fabric.

9 Lay the fabric circle on top of the jar lid, then pull the rubber band or scrunchie down over the fabric until it catches under the lid.

10 Print the cookie mix directions (see photo) on the paper. Trim the paper so that it looks like a gift tag.

11 Punch a hole in the upper left-hand corner of the "tag."

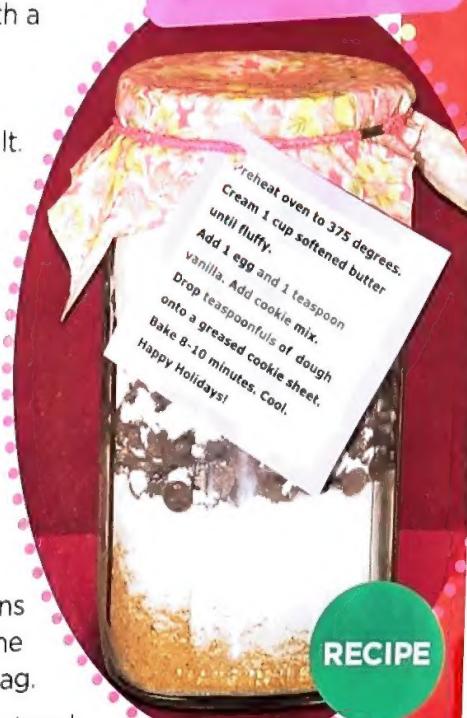
12 Run the ribbon through the hole, then tie the ribbon around the jar just under the lid.

You'll Need

1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup white sugar
1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1-quart canning jar with lid
Scrap of calico fabric large enough to cut out a 10-inch circle
Rubber band or brand-new hair scrunchie
Ribbon long enough to tie around jar lid

Equipment

Measuring cups & spoons
Large plate
Large spoon
Transparent tape
Clean sheet of paper
Scissors



RECIPE

Lights... Camera... Cook!

What's it like to cook with the world watching? We asked 10-year-old Isabella and her 8-year-old sister Olivia, stars of the cool cooking webcasts on spatulatta.com...

Why is spatulatta.com great for kids?

Isabella: When kids see other kids cooking, they can inspire each other!

Olivia: The site has pretty much only healthy food, so kids who have trouble with eating too many sweets can see that vegetables really are good.

What's challenging about hosting cooking webcasts?

Olivia: I'm really, really short, so I have to stand on a stool just to reach the counter.

Isabella: We basically do everything in one take. We just get in front of the camera and wing it.

Have you had any memorable mistakes?

Olivia: One time Isabella made corn fritters and they exploded all over the place!

Isabella: And we were making a salad parfait one time, and we were at the last layer at the very top when we realized that an ingredient was left out—at the very bottom!

What advice do you have for kids who want to start cooking?

Olivia: Give it a shot, and if it doesn't work out...oh, well! Just think of cooking like a sport: You have to practice to get better.

Isabella: When something goes wrong, it actually gives you more experience. You can learn from your mistakes—and anyway, the mistakes usually turn out to be fun!

Visit spatulatta.com to check out Isabella's and Olivia's webcasts—and for more recipes and fun!

You Too Could Be a DG COVER GIRL!

For each issue, we go to a different state and spend a fun-filled weekend working with 12 of our readers—our Discovery Girls. They model, brainstorm ideas, and help us write articles.

How can you become a Discovery Girl?

- 1 Go to discoverygirls.com and click on "Next Stop." If we're visiting your state soon...
- 2 Download a questionnaire and follow all the instructions. Make sure it's postmarked before the deadline for your state.
- 3 Once we've contacted all of our Discovery Girls for your state, we will post a notice on our web site. Good luck!

If your state isn't listed, send us a questionnaire anyway! When we visit your state, we'll be sure to include you. Visit discoverygirls.com for all the exciting details!



Next Issue

Meet the Girls From Vancouver!



We Pets!

- Pet Contest Winners
- What Pet Are You Most Like?
- Time to Grow Up? How to Cope...
- Fix a Ruined Rep (and More!)
- Are You Too Fashion-Focused?

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Princess



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